

THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
OF THE
General Assembly,
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND

Conveened at *Edinburgh* the 22d Day of *May*, 1755.

Collected and extracted from the Record by the Clerk thereof.



EDINBURGH:

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THE PRINCIPAL
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OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND,

Begun at *Edinburgh*, upon *Thursday* the 22d Day of *May*
1755, and concluded the 2d Day of *June* said Year.

I.

*The King's Commission to Charles Lord
Cathcart, produced and ordered to
be recorded.*

Edinburgh the 22d Day of *May* 1755, Sess. 1st.



THE General Assembly of this National Church
being convened and constituted, there was pro-
duced to them by the Right Honourable *Charles*
Lord Cathcart, the King's Commission sealed
with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union, to be kept
and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the great Seal of *Scotland*, mak-
ing and constituting him his Majesty's high Commissioner
and Representative in this Assembly; which being publicly
read with all due Honour and Respect, was ordered to be re-
corded in the Books of Assembly; the Tenor whereof follows,
viz:

GEORGIUS

GEORGIUS Dei gratia magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex, fidei defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus ad quos præsentis literæ nostræ pervenerint salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ scotiæ conventus, in vigesimum secundum diem maii proxime sequentis convenire, ordinatus fuit: Nosq. etiam abunde cupidi, quin etiam necessarium esse judicantes, in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis ecclesiæ conventus, die statuto, debite observetur; atq. rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dict. conventui personaliter interesse nequimus: nosque abunde satisfacti, de sufficientia et fidelitate fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri consanguinei, CAROLI domini CATHCART, quod ad summum munus postea mentionat. rite exercendum et obeundum, usq. quaq. sit instructus et idoneus: Noveritis igitur nos nominasse, constituisse et ordinasse, sicuti tenore præsentium nominamus, constituimus et ordinamus, memoratum CAROLUM dominum CATHCART, supremum nostrum commissionerium, ad effectum postea mentionat. dando pariter et concedendo illi plenissimam nostram potestatem, commissionem et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem representandi, nec non præsentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam commissionerio nostro, in hunc effectum specialiter constitut. tenendi; omniaque alia ad imperium et munus commissionerii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene adeoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius ejusdem summi muneris fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter præsentis facere potuerimus: Quæque omnia et singula ab antedicto CAROLO domino CATHCART, in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis insuper ante dictæ ecclesiæ et conventus, pastoribus et Presbyteris, cæterisque quibuscunque, infra illam partem magnæ Britanniae scotiam vocat. subditis nostris cujuscunque Gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum CAROLUM dominum CATHCART, tanquam supremum nostrum commissionerium, quoad effectum et modum supramentionat. reveantur, agnoscant, et dicto ipsius audientes se præbeant, strictè mandamus et imperamus. Atq. hanc nostram commissionem a dict. vigesimo secundo die maii proxime sequentis incipere, ac deinceps hac subsequente sessione dict. generalis conventus in vigore continuare declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, sigillum nostrum per unionis tractatum custodiend. et in scotia vice et loco magni sigilli ejusdem utend. præsentibus appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam nostram, apud St. James's primo die mensis Aprilis anno

General Assembly 1755.

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anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo quinquagesimo quinto,
regnique nostri anno vigesimo octavo.

Per signaturam Manu S. D. N. regis superscript.

Sealed at *Edinburgh* this
fifteenth Day of *May* One
thousand seven hundred and
fifty-five Years. Signed *Ar-*
chibald Campbell.

Written to the Seal, and
registrated the fourteenth
Day of *May* One thousand
seven hundred and fifty-five.
Signed *John Russel* Depute.

II.

*The King's most gracious LETTER
to the General Assembly, presented to
them by his Majesty's Commissioner.*

Edinburgh, May 22d 1755. Sess. I.

Supra scribitur G E O R G E R.



I G H T Reverend and Well-beloved, We greet
you Well. You have given such signal Proofs
in former Assemblies, of your Zeal for the Ad-
vancement of True Religion, and we have had
such constant Experience of your Loyalty and
Affection to Our Person and Government, as leave Us no Room
to doubt, but that you are come together with, and will at
all Times be governed by, the same good Principles and Dis-
positions. We therefore most willingly countenance this your
Meeting with Our Royal Authority and Approbation; and
assure you of Our unalterable Resolution to protect the Church
of *Scotland*, as by Law established, and to maintain it in the
full Enjoyment of all its Rights and Privileges.

The Satisfaction We have had in the Fidelity and Abilities
of Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved *Charles Lord Cathcart*,
and Our Dependence on his Diligence and Prudence in the
Discharge of so important a Trust, have determined Us to
make Choice of him to represent Our Person in this Assembly;
and We are persuaded that his known Attachment to Our Per-

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son and Service, and his zealous Adherence to the Church of *Scotland*, cannot fail to render him acceptable to you.

As the effectually promoting of true Piety and Virtue, is the principal View of your assembling at present, We have a firm Reliance, that nothing will be wanting on your Part that can contribute to so good and desirable an End. And so We bid you heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at *St. James's* the first Day of *April* One thousand seven hundred and fifty-five, in the twenty-eighth Year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command.

HOLDERNESSE.

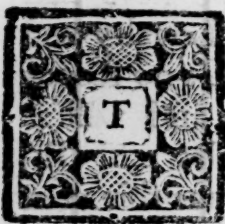


III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

Edinburgh May 24th 1755. Sess. 3.

May it please your Majesty,



THE most gracious Letter with which your Majesty has been pleased to honour this Assembly, we received with that Joy and Thankfulness, which becomes Subjects happy in the repeated Instances of your Royal Favour.

That your Majesty condescends to express such favourable Sentiments concerning the Principles and Conduct of former Assemblies, gives us the greatest Satisfaction, and lays us under special Obligations, to use our best Endeavours, for preserving the same Place in your Majesty's good Opinion. It is the Happiness of our Situation, that a just Zeal for the Advancement of true Religion, must ever inspire us with Loyalty and Affection to your Royal Person and Government; to which, under God, we owe the peaceful Enjoyment of true Religion, and all that is dear to us in this World as Men and Christians; and by these good Principles and Dispositions we hope at all Times to be governed.

Your

Your Majesty's continued Goodness in countenancing our Meetings with your Royal Authority and Approbation, and the renewed Assurance given us of your unalterable Resolution to protect the Church of *Scotland*, as by Law established, and maintain it in the full Enjoyment of all its Rights and Privileges, cannot but affect our Hearts with the warmest and most lively Sense of Gratitude, and confirm us in the most inviolable Attachment to so gracious a Sovereign.

The Confidence your Majesty places in the zealous and affectionate Attachment of Lord *Catcart* to your sacred Person and Government, the Proofs you have had of his Lordship's Abilities, Attention and Faithfulness in his former Services and Employments, the sincere Regard he has always shown for true Religion, and his zealous Concern for the Constitution, Rights, and Privileges of this National Church, render the Choice your Majesty has made of his Lordship to represent your Royal Person in this Assembly highly acceptable to us. Lord *Catcart* is a Nobleman so distinguished by his personal Endowments, formed and improved by the great and virtuous Examples of his Ancestors, who were honoured in Life, and whose Memory will be ever blessed, on Account of their Faithfulness, Zeal and Bravery, in the Service of their Prince, and the Support and Maintenance of the Religion and Liberties of their Country; that your Majesty's sending him in the high Character of your Commissioner and Representative, is a very particular Testimony of your Majesty's paternal Care of us, and demands our most dutiful and grateful Acknowledgements.

We are sensible, that the promoting of true Piety and Virtue, is the valuable Design of our Meetings, the pursuing of which can alone render us worthy of your Majesty's Countenance; and the Reliance you are graciously pleased to express, that nothing shall be wanting on our Part that may contribute to so good and desirable an End, must animate us to exert ourselves with the greater Earnestness to answer your Majesty's Expectations.

The renewing of your Royal Bounty, for the promoting of the Knowledge of true Religion in the Highlands and Islands of *Scotland*, we acknowledge with all Thankfulness, as a fresh Instance of your generous Concern for the greatest Good of your Subjects; and we look upon ourselves as under the strongest Ties, to employ it in such a Manner as may best serve the Purpose of so pious and charitable a Donation.

That the God of all Grace may multiply his best Blessings on your sacred Head, may prosper all your great Designs for the

the Good of your People, and defeat all the Enterprises of your Enemies ; that his watchful Providence may guard your Royal Person, and long preserve your valuable Life, and may return you with Safety and Honour to your *British* Dominions ; that he may eminently bless their Royal Highnesses, the Prince of *Wales*, the Princess Dowager of *Wales*, the Duke, the Princesses, and all the Branches of your Royal Family ; and that, after a long and happy Reign upon Earth, you may be highly exalted in the heavenly Kingdom ; are the earnest Prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful, most obedient, and most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

*Edinburgh 24th
May 1755.*

Signed in our Name, in our Presence, and at our Appointment, by

GEORGE REID Moderator.

IV.

Act against Infidelity and Immorality.

Edinburgh May 28th 1755. Sess. 6.



THE General Assembly being filled with the deepest Concern, on Account of the Prevalence of Infidelity and Immorality ; the Principles whereof have been, to the Disgrace of our Age and Nation, so openly avowed in several Books published of late in this Country, and which are but too well known amongst us ; do therefore judge it proper and necessary for them at this Time, to express the utmost Abhorrence of these impious and infidel Principles, which are subversive of all Religion natural and revealed, and have such pernicious Influence on Life and Morals. And they do earnestly recommend it to all the Ministers of this Church, to exercise the Vigilance, and to exert the Zeal, which becomes their Character, to preserve those under their Charge from the Contagion of these abominable Tenets, and to stir up in them a solicitous Concern to guard against them, and against the Influence of those who are infected with them.

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V.

*Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for discussing Affairs referred to them.**Edinburgh, May 31st 1755, Sess. 9th.*

THE General Assembly considering that there are divers Affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate, commissionate and appoint the Reverend Mr. *George Reid* Minister at *St. Eviox*, their Moderator, and from the Presbytery of *Dunoon*, Mr. *Alexander Lamont* at *Kilfinnan*, Mr. *James Lindsay* at *St. Maghlaish* Ministers; Mr. *William Sands* Bookseller in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kintyre*, Mr. *John MacVicar* at *Kildalton*, Mr. *Gershom Stewart* at *Kilbride*, Ministers; Mr. *Alexander MacMillan* of *Dunmore* Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Inverary*, Mr. *Archibald Lambie* at *Kilmartine*, Mr. *Donald Campbell* at *Northknappdale*, Ministers; *Colin Campbell* of *Kirkbride*, Esq; one of the Commissioners of his Majesty's Customs, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Inverary*, Mr. *John Campbell* younger of *Stonefield*, Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Lorn*, Mr. *James Campbell* at *Kilbranden*, Ministers; Mr. *James Stewart* at *Cargubin*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Mull*, Mr. *Archibald MacTavish* at *Torafay*, Mr. *Alexander MacLean* at *Torloish*, Ministers; *Hector MacLean* of *Torloish*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dunkeld*, Mr. *James Bishop* at *Kinclaven*, Mr. *Patrick Meek* at *Monedie*, Mr. *Duncan MacCara* at *Fortingale*, Mr. *Thomas Bisset* at *Logierait*, Ministers; his Grace *James Duke of Athol*, the Right Honourable the Earl of *Broadalbine*, Ruling Elders. From the Presbytery of *Perth* Mr. *David Black* at *Perth*, Mr. *John Faichney* at *Colace*, Mr. *John Glen* at *Forgandennie*, Mr. *Alexander Badenoch* at *St. Martins*, Ministers; the Honourable Mr. *Robert Craigie* of *Glendoick*, Lord President of the Court of Session, and Mr. *John Belches* of *Innermay*, Ruling Elders: From the Burgh of *Perth*, *John Robertson* of *Tullibelton*, present Provost of *Perth*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Stirling*, Mr. *Daniel MacQueen* at *Stirling*, Mr. *James Fordice* at *Alloa*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Lord Justice Clerk, Ruling Elder:

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From the Burgh of *Stirling*, *Robert Melvill* Watchmaker in *Stirling*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, Mr. *Alexander Murray* at *Fowlis*, Mr. *Robert Menzies* at *Comry*, Mr. *Thomas Stewart* at *Grief*, Ministers; Mr. *Patrick Campbell* of *Monzie*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dumblane*, Mr. *Finlay Ferguson* at *Balwhidder*, Mr. *George Anderson* at *Tuliallan*, Ministers; Sir *James Livingston* of *Glentirran*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dunfermline*, Mr. *James Thomson* at *Dunfermline*, Mr. *Thomas Fernie* there, Mr. *Robert Rolland* at *Culross*, Ministers; Sir *George Preston* of *Valleyfield*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Innerkeithing*, Mr. *Alexander Wedderburn*, Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Kirkaldy*, Mr. *Matthew Mitchel* at *Auchterderan*, Mr. *Henry Moir* at *Auchtertool*, Mr. *Neil Bethune* at *Kennoway*, Ministers; Doctor *White* of *Bennochie*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Kirkaldy*, Mr. *Gilbert Elliot* of *Lochgelly*, Advocate: From the Burgh of *Dysart*, Mr. *John Sinclair* of *Balgownie*: From the Presbytery of *Coupar*, Mr. *John Ballingall* at *Coupar*, Mr. *Hugh Glass* at *Kettle*, Mr. *James Bruce* at *Dunbog*, Mr. *George Lyon* at *Strathmiglo*, Ministers; he Right Honourable the Earl of *Leven* and *Andrew Ballingall*, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *St. Andrews*, Mr. *Alexander Walker* at *Kemback*, Mr. *John Hill* at *St. Andrews*, Mr. *William Vilant* at *Kingsburns*, Mr. *William Beat* at *Forgan*, Ministers; Doctor *George Haddow* Professor of History in the new College of *St. Andrews*, Doctor *John Scott* of *Cotts*, Ruling Elders: From the University of *St. Andrews*, Mr. *David Young* Professor of Philosophy in the united Colleges of *St. Salvator* and *St. Leonards* in the said University: From the Presbytery of *Meikle*, Mr. *David Thomson* at *Airley*, Mr. *James Ogilvie* at *Eassie*, Mr. *John Halyburton* at *Kettins*, Ministers; *John Murray* of *Lintrose*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Forfar*, Mr. *Thomas Raiker* at *Othlaw*, Mr. *Robert Trail* at *Rescobie*, Ministers; *James Carnegie* of *Finhaven*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dundee*, Mr. *George Lyon* at *Longforgan*, Mr. *David Scott* at *Auchterhouse*, Mr. *Gershome Carmichael* at *Dundee*, Ministers; Mr. *Thomas Boies* Writer in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aberbrothick*, Mr. *Robert Preston* at *Arbirlott*, Mr. *John Carnegie* at *Inverkeilor*, Ministers; the Honourable Mr. *John Maul* of *Inverkeilor* one of the Barons of Exchequer, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Breckine*, Mr. *George Blair* at *Edzell*, Mr. *George Ogilvie* at *Menmuir*, Mr. *William Davidson* at *Navar* and *Lethpot*, Ministers; *George Ross* late Provost of *Montrose*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aberdeen*, Mr. *Patrick Black* at *Petercoulter*, Mr. *Robert Pollock* Professor of Divinity in the *Marshall* College of *Aberdeen*, Mr. *George Abercrombie* at *Footdie*, Mr. *John Maxwell* at *Newmachar*, Ministers; the

Right

General Assembly, 1755. II

Right Honourable *William Grant* of *Prestongrange*, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, Mr. *John French* Advocate, Ruling Elders: From the City of *Aberdeen*, Mr. *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church; King's College, Mr. *John Leslie* Professor of Greek therein; Marishall College, Mr. *Alexander Gerrard* Professor of Philosophy therein: From the Presbytery of *Kincardine-O-Neil*. Mr. *Robert Michie* at *Clunie*, Mr. *Murdoch MacLennan* at *Crathie*, Mr. *William Forsyth* at *Aboyn*, Ministers; Sir *Arthur Forbes* of *Craigievar*, Baronet, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Alford*, Mr. *James Lumsden* of *Towie* Mr. *James Gordon* at *Cabrach*, Mr. *Robert Lumsden* at *Auchindore*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Ellon*, Mr. *Alexander Howe* at *Tarves*, Mr. *William Paterfson* at *Slains*, Ministers; *George Clark* in *Slains*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Garrioch*, Mr. *Robert Farquar* at *Garrioch*, Mr. *George Ogilvie* at *Premney*, Mr. *John Bisset* at *Culsalmond*, Ministers; The Right Honourable *Hugh Dalrymple* of *Drumore*, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Inverury*, Mr. *Thomas Dundas* younger of *Fin-gask*: From the Presbytery of *Fordice*, Mr. *Walter Morrison* at *Deskfoord*, Mr. *George Grant* at *Rathven*, Ministers; Mr. *Robert Pringle* of *Edgefield*, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Strathbogie*, Mr. *Alexander Chalmers* at *Glass*, Mr. *Alexander Chalmers* at *Cairnie*, Ministers; Mr. *Thomas Innes* Writer in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aberlour*, Mr. *Hugh Grant* at *Knockando*, Mr. *Thomas Johnston* at *Bocharm*, Ministers; Mr. *John Grant* of *Elchies*, Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Abernethy*, Mr. *George Grant* at *Kirkmichael*, Mr. *Patrick Grant* at *Duthill*, Ministers; *Lauchlan Grant* of *Garterbeg* Writer in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Elgin*, Mr. *James Spence* at *Urquhart*, Mr. *Alexander Murray* at *Duffus*, Ministers; Bailie *Robert Grant* Merchant in *Elgin*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Forreß*, Mr. *Alexander Rose* at *Nairn*, Mr. *Thomas Gordon* at *Auldearn*, Ministers; Mr. *Ross* of *Brae*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Inverness*, Mr. *Murdo MacKenzie* at *Inverness*, Mr. *John Grant* at *Dores*, Ministers; Baillie *James Fraser* Merchant in *Inverness*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Tayne* Mr. *Gilbert Robertson* at *Kincardine*, Mr. *John Beton* at *Rosebeen*, Ministers; Sir *John Gordon* of *Invergordon*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dingwall*, Mr. *Patrick Grant* at *Urray*, Mr. *Adam Rose* at *Dingwall*, Ministers; *Albert Munro* of *Coull*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Abertarph*, Mr. *John Grant* at *Urquhart*, Mr. *William Grant* at *Kilmanivaig*, Ministers; Mr. *Francis Grant* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Skye*, Mr. *John MacPherfson* at *Slate*, Mr. *Donald*

Donald MacLeod at *Diurnish*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Lewis*, *Mr. John Clark* at *Stornavoy*, Minister: From the Presbytery of *Uist*, *Mr. Kenneth MacAulay* at *Harris*, Minister: From the Presbytery of *Gairloch*, *Mr. John MacLean* at *Kintail*, *Mr. James Robertson* at *Lochbroom*, Ministers; *John MacKenzie* in *Corelivie*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dornoch*, *Mr. Hugh Sutherland* at *Rogart*, *Mr. Martin MacPherson* at *Golspie*, Ministers; *Mr. Alexander Gray* of *Overkibo*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Dornoch*, *John Mosman* Merchant in *Edinburgh*: From the Presbytery of *Caithness*, *Mr. James Ferm* at *Wick*, *Mr. John Sutherland* at *Halkirk*, Ministers; *Mr. William Halawell* Preacher of the Gospel, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *North Isles*, *Mr. Andrew Cowan* at *Westray*, *Mr. James Weir* at *Rousay*, Ministers; *Jerom Dennison* of *Noltland*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Zetland*, *Mr. Thomas Millar* at *Lerwick*, *Mr. William Mitchel* at *Tingwall*, Ministers; *Sir Andrew Mitchell* of *West Shore*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, *Mr. George Fordyce* at *Corstorphine*, *Mr. Robert Hamilton* Professor of Divinity in the University of *Edinburgh*, *Mr. Gilbert Hamilton* at *Cramond*, *Mr. William Bennet* at *Duddingston*, *Mr. George Kay* and *Mr. Hugh Blair* at *Edinburgh*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Earl of *Lauderdale*, *Sir Alexander Dick* of *Priestfield*, Bailie *James Stewart* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elders: City of *Edinburgh*, *George Drummond*, Esq; present Lord Provost thereof, *Thomas Clarkson* present Conveener of the Trades: University of *Edinburgh*, *Dr. Patrick Cuming* Professor of Church History therein: From the Presbytery of *Linlithgow*, *Mr. Robert Dalglish* at *Linlithgow*, *Mr. Patrick Bennet* of *Polmont*, *Mr. Henry Lundie* at *Abercorn*, *Mr. James Watson* at *Torphicken*, Ministers; *Mr. Patrick Haldane* of *Beacrofts*, *Mr. Robert Ramsay* of *Blackcraig*, Ruling Elders: Burgh of *Queensferry* *Mr. John Dundas* of *Newballs*: From the Presbytery of *Biggar*, *Mr. David Blenshall* at *Lamington*, *Mr. John Johnston* at *Biggar*, Ministers; *Mr. Robert Welsh* of *Mossfennan*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Peebles*, *Mr. Thomas Findlater* at *Linton*, *Mr. Alexander Robertson* at *Edlestoun*, Ministers; *Robert Fisher* of *Newball* Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dalkeith*, *Mr. George Shepherd* at *Newbottle*, *Mr. George Barclay* at *Ormiston*, *Mr. John Bonner* at *Cockpen*, Ministers; the Honourable *Robert Dundas* of *Arniston* Esq; his Majesty's Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Haddington*, *Mr. Archibald Blair* at *Garvet*, *Mr. John Hamilton* at *Bolton*, *Mr. John Hume* at *Atbolstonford*, Ministers; *Mr. William Law* of *Elvingston* Advocate, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Haddington*, *Mr. George Brown* of *Colston*: Burgh of *Northberwick*, *Mr. John Dalrymple* Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Dunbar*, *Mr. William Orr* at *Spot*, *Mr. Matthew Reid* at *Prestonkirk*, Ministers; *Sir Hew Dalrymple*

Dalrymple of *Northberwick*, Ruling Elder: *Burgh* of *Dunbar*, Mr. *Alexander Home* of *Eccles*, one of his Majesty's Solicitors: From the Presbytery of *Dunse*, Mr. *William Home* at *Foggo*, Mr. *Adam Dickson* at *Dunse*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Earl of *Marchmont*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Chirnside*, Mr. *Patrick Hepburn* at *Ayton*, Mr. *James Allan* at *Eymouth*, Mr. *George Couples* at *Swinton*, Ministers; Sir *John Steuart* of *Allanbank*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kelso*, Mr. *George Reidpath* at *Stitchel*, Mr. *James Turnbull* at *Lintoun*, Ministers: Mr. *Charles Binning* of *Pilmuir* Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Jedburgh*, Mr. *William Sommerville* at *Hawick*, Mr. *Thomas Boston* at *Oxnam*, Mr. *John Rogers* at *Hownam*, Ministers; the most Honourable the Marquis of *Lothian*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Earlston*, Mr. *Francis Scott* at *West-ruther*, Mr. *William Gullon* at *Legerwood*, Ministers; Mr. *Robert Kennedy* of *Auchtefardle*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Selkirk*, Mr. *James Brown* at *Melrose*, Mr. *Robert Gillon* at *St. Boswells*, Ministers; Mr. *Andrew Pringle* Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Annan*, Mr. *John Lawrie* at *Middlebee*, Mr. *William Moncrief* at *Annan*, Ministers; *Robert Dalrymple* of *Priestside*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Langholm*, Mr. *Robert Malcolm* at *Ews*, Mr. *David Balmain* at *Westerkirk*, Ministers; *Thomas Scott* of *Coums*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lochmaben*, Mr. *William Young* at *Hutton*, Mr. *Edward MacWhinnie* at *Applegirth*, Mr. *Edward Johnston* at *Moffat*, Ministers; *Alexander Orr* Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Penpont*, Mr. *Alexander Baine* at *Keir*, Mr. *Robert Hunter* at *Kirkconnel*, Ministers; *Baillie Thomas Gracie* at *Minniavie*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dumfries*, Mr. *George Duncan* at *Lochrutton*, Mr. *Thomas Hamilton* at *Holywood*, Mr. *Robert MacMorine* at *Kirkpatrick-Durham*, Ministers; *John Goldie* of *Craigmuie*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kirkcudbright*, Mr. *William Jamieson* at *Berrick*, Mr. *Robert Thomson* at *Girton*, Mr. *William MacKie* at *Balmaclellan*, Ministers; *Alexander Kennedy* of *Knockgray*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Wigton*, Mr. *Andrew Adair* at *Whitehorn*, Mr. *Robert Hunter* at *Kirkcowan*, Ministers; Dr. *Alexander Martin* of *Little-airies* Physician, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Stranraer*, Mr. *Hamilton-Kennedy* at *Ballantrae*, Mr. *Robert Ferguson* at *Calmonel*, Ministers; *John Hamilton* of *Bargany*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Ayr*, Mr. *Patrick Wedrow* at *Torbolton*, Mr. *George Ballantyne* at *Craigie*, Mr. *David Shaw* at *Coylton*, Mr. *Robert Wait* at *Galstoun*, Mr. *Duncan MacFarlane* at *Drymen*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Lord *Auchinleck*, Mr. *Allan Whiteford* of *Ballochmille*, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Irvine*, Mr. *Alexander Smith* at *Cambray*, Mr. *Thomas MacKindlay* at *Stevenston*,

Stevenston, Mr. *James Leslie* at *Kilmarnock*, Ministers; Mr. *John Cunningham* Preacher of the Gospel, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Irvine*, the Right Honourable the Lord *Shewalton*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Paisley*, Mr. *John Schaw* at *Greenock*, Mr. *James Lundie* at *Erskine*, Mr. *John Rae* at *Abbeyparish*, Ministers; Mr. *Archibald Campbell* of *Elderslie*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, Mr. *William MacCulloch* at *Cambuslang*, Mr. *John Pinkerton* at *Dalziel*, Mr. *James Baillie* at *Shotts*, Ministers; Mr. *James Cook* in *Green*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lanerk*, Mr. *William Hamilton* at *Douglas*, Mr. *William Forrester* at *Carstairs*, Mr. *William Miller* at *Carmichaell*, Ministers: *James White* of *Stockbridge*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, Mr. *William Leeshman* Professor of Divinity in the College of *Glasgow*, Mr. *Colin Campbell* at *Eaglesham*, Mr. *James Stoddart* at *Kirkintulloch*, Ministers; *Archibald Ingram* Merchant in *Glasgow*, Ruling Elder: City of *Glasgow*, Mr. *John Bowman* present Dean of Guild in *Glasgow*: University of *Glasgow*, Mr. *George Muirhead* Professor of Humanity therein: From the Presbytery of *Dumbarton*, Mr. *Alexander MacFarlane* at *Arrochar*, Mr. *John Colquhoun* at *Badernock*, Mr. *James Gray* at *Strathblane*, Ministers; Sir *James Colquhoun* of *Luff* Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Dumbarton*, Mr. *William Panton* Schoolmaster of *Dumbarton*: With his Grace *Archibald* Duke of *Argyle*, the most Honourable *John* Marquiss of *Tweeddale*, the Right Honourable Sir *Gilbert Elliot* of *Minto*, Mr. *John Sinclair* of *Murkle*, two of the Senators of the College of Justice, and Sir *John Clerk* of *Pennycook* Baronet, one of the Barons of Exchequer, Ruling Elders: To be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the Effects after mentioned, with Power to the said Commissioners, or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof Twenty-one are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at *Edinburgh*, the first Day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon; and thereafter the second *Wednesday* of *August*, third *Wednesday* of *November*, and the first *Wednesday* of *March* next to come, and oftner, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with Power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise the General Assembly fully impowers their said Commissioners, or their *Quorum* abovementioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see Cause, in every Matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Assembly, and to do every thing contained in, and conform to, the Instructions given or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the Interest of the Church on every Occasion, that the Church, and present Establishment thereof do not suffer or

or sustain any Prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Providing always, that this general Clause be not extended to particular Affairs, or Processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal Concern to, or Influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed that no private Processes be determined, except at the four stated Diets; and what shall be determined at one Diet of the Commission, with relation to private Causes, shall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in Force 'till disapproved by the General Assembly. And the General Assembly renews the Instructions given by the General Assembly in the Year One thousand seven hundred and seventeen, to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full Force, as Instructions to the Commissioners before-named, and to be observed by them in all Points, as if the same were specially here insert: And that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of Books and Pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of Opinions of whatever Kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the Recommenders of such Books or Pamphlets, or the Errors therein contained, whether by Word, Writ, or Print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any References and Appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in Matters of Doctrine, and ripen such Affairs for the General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of Vice and Immorality, and give all needful Advice and Assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon Application to them for that End: Likeways to take care, that the Impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*, and such Books as are authorized by this Church, relating to the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government thereof, be correct; and give Directions about printing the same. And the said Commission are appointed and empowered to keep a Correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands* for suppressing Popery and Superstition, and for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, and carrying on a Reformation in these Parts, and give Assistance and Concurrence therein; and, if Need be, to apply to the Government for a proper Remedy and speedy Redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other Matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above-mentioned: And, in all their Actings, they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the same; declaring, that in and for

for all their Actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see Cause: And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and Members are required to attend the Diets of the said Commission, and Absents therefrom ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Assembly, held in the Year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a *Quorum*, and Attendance of Members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, or any other Presbytery within twelve Miles thereof, to meet any of the Days or Weeks appointed for the Meetings of this Commission; and such of the Members of these Presbyteries, as are on the Commission, are required all of them, to give Attendance on the Diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater Distance, who have four or more Members on the Commission, are to take care that at least two of them attend each Diet of the same. And the Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first Meeting to discuss as many of the Causes and Questions, relative to the Settlement of vacant Churches, which are, or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the Sentences of the Commission, or to give the same a full Execution, in that Case, the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent Meetings, as has been sometimes the Practice; but shall allow the same to lye over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their Conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their Reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further empower and direct the said Commission to make due Application to the King and Parliament for Redress of the Grievance of Patronage, in case a favourable Opportunity for so doing shall occur, during the Subsistence of this Commission. And the General Assembly do enjoin their Commission, that in passing their Sentences, and in ordering the Execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th Act of the Assembly 1736.

VI.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.

Edinburgh, May the 31st 1755, Sess. 6.



THE General Assembly do hereby nominate, commissionate and appoint the Reverend Mr. George Reid Minister at *St. Evax*, their Moderator; Mr. Thomas Tulledeph Principal of *St. Leonards* College at *St. Andrews*, Mr. James Mureson Principal of the new College there, Mr. Neil Campbell Principal of the College of *Glasgow*, Mr. John Goldie Principal of the College of *Edinburgh*, Mr. John Lumsden Professor of Divinity in the King's College of *Aberdeen*, Mr. Robert Pollock Professor of Divinity in the Marishall College there, Mr. Andrew Shaw Professor of Divinity in the new College of *St. Andrews*, Mr. Robert Hamilton Professor of Divinity in the College of *Edinburgh*, Mr. William Leesman Professor of Divinity in the College of *Glasgow*, Mr. Matthew Stewart Professor of Mathematics in the College of *Edinburgh*, Mr. James Wetherspoon at *Tester* one of his Majesty's Chaplains, all the Ministers, Members of the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*. Mr. James Lindsay at *St. Maglaih*, Mr. Archibald Lamie at *Kilmartine*, Mr. James Bishop at *Kinclaven*, Mr. David Black at *Perth*, Mr. Daniel MacQueen at *Stirling*, Mr. Robert Menzies at *Comrie*, Mr. James Thomson at *Dumfermline*, Mr. Neil Bethune at *Kennoway*, Mr. Hugh Glas at *Kettle*, Mr. Robert Trail at *Rescobie*, Mr. Gershom Carmichael at *Dundee*, Mr. Robert Preston at *Arbirlot*, Mr. William Forsyth at *Aboyn*, Mr. James Gordon at *Cabrach*, Mr. John Bisset at *Culsalmond*, Mr. George Grant at *Rathven*, Mr. George Grant at *Kirkmichael* Mr. Patrick Grant at *Duthil*. Mr. John Grant at *Dores*, Mr. Gilbert Robert at *Kincardine*, Mr. Patrick Grant at *Urray*, Mr. William Grant at *Kilmanivaig*, Mr. James Robertson at *Lochbroom*, Mr. Martine MacPherson at *Golespie*, Mr. John Sutherland at *Halkirk*, Mr. Thomas Miller at *Lerwick*, Mr. Robert Dalglish at *Lithgow*, Mr. John Johnson at *Biggar*, Mr. George Shepherd at *Newbottle*, Mr. John Bonar at *Cockpen*, Mr. William Orr

at Spott, Mr. *James Allan* at Eyemouth, Mr. *John Rogers* at Hounam, Mr. *James Broun* at Melrose, Mr. *Robert Malcolm* at Ews, Mr. *Edward Johnston* at Moffat, Mr. *George Duncan* at Lochbrutton, Mr. *David Shaw* at Coyltoun, Mr. *John Shaw* at Greenock, Mr. *William MacCulloch* at Cambuslang, Mr. *James Stoddart* at Kirkintilloch, Mr. *John Colquhoun* at Baldernoch. Mr. *Patrick Bennet* at Polmont, Mr. *Henry Lundie* at Abircorn, Mr. *Archibald Blair* at Garwald, Mr. *Thomas Hamilton* at Halywood, Mr. *George Bannatyne* at Craigie, Mr. *Alexander Chalmers* at Glasf, Ministers: his Grace *James Duke of Athol*, his Grace *Archibald Duke of Argyle*, the most Honourable the Marquis of *Tweeddale*, the most Honourable the Marquis of *Lothian*, the Right Honourable the Earl of *Leven*, the Right Honourable the Earl of *Marchmont*, the Right Honourable the Earl of *Dumfries*, the Right Honourable the Earl of *Broadalbine*, the Right Honourable the Lord *Sommerville*, the Right Honourable *Robert Craigie* Lord President of the Court of Session, the Right Honourable *Robert Dundas* of *Arniston* Esq; his Majesty's Advocate, *Charles Erskine* of *Tinwald*, Esq; Lord Justice Clerk, *Hew Dalrymple* of *Drumore*, Esq; *Alexander Fraser* of *Strichen*, Esq; *John Sinclair* of *Murkle*, Esq; *Patrick Boyle* of *Shewalton*, Esq; *Alexander Boswel* of *Auchinleck*, Esq; *Robert Pringle* of *Edgefield*, Esq; *William Grant* of *Prestongrange*, Esq; seven Senators of the College of Justice, Mr. *Robert Dalrymple* of *Priestside* Writer to the Signet, *George Drummond*, Esq; Lord Provost of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *Andrew Pringle* Advocate, Mr. *Gilbert Elliot* of *Lochgelly* Advocate, *Colin Campbell* of *Kilbride*, Esq; one of the Commissioners of his Majesty's Customs, Sir *John Clark* of *Pennycook* one of the Barons of Exchequer, *Alexander MacMillan* of *Dunmore* Writer to the Signet, *Hector MacLean* of *Torloish*, Mr. *David Dalrymple* Advocate Procurator for the Church, *John Maul* of *Inverkeilor*, Esq; one of the Barons of Exchequer, Mr. *Albert Munro* of *Coul*, *James White* of *Overstockbridge*, *John Paton* Bookseller in *Edinburgh*, *Thomas Boies* Writer there, Mr. *James Smollet* of *Bonhill* Advocate, Mr. *Alexander Wedderburn* Advocate, *Lauchlan Grant* of *Gartenbeg* Writer in *Edinburgh*, Sir *John Gordon* of *Inverkeilor*, Mr. *Francis Grant* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Bailie *William Tod* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, *James Stewart* Merchant, and one of the present Baillies of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *George Brown* of *Colstoun*, *Alexander Martin* of *Little Aires* Doctor of Medicine, Mr. *Patrick Haldane* of *Beacrofts*, *Alexander Gray* of *Overskibo*, Sir *Alexander Dick* of *Priestfield* Mr. *Allan Whitefoord* of *Balochmile*, Bailie *Archibald Ingram* Merchant in *Glasgow*, Mr. *William Hala-*
well Preacher of the Gospel, *John Gowdie* of *Craigmuie*, Mr. *John Leslie* Professor of Greek in the University of *Aber-*
deen

deen, *Thomas Clarkson* Baxter in *Edinburgh*, and Deacon Conveener of the Trades there, Ruling Elders : To be a Committee of this Assembly, for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of *Scotland*, for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, suppressing of Popery and Profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty given for these Ends, according to, and in Terms of his Majesty's Grant to this Assembly, and the sixth Act of last Assembly, and whole Acts therein mentioned, and in Acts formerly made and referred to, in the Commissions granted to former Committees : Any five of the abovenamed Persons are declared to be a *Quorum*, whereof three to be Ministers : But it is hereby appointed, that, at the quarterly Meeting of the said Committee, when the Scheme or Establishment of Missionaries, for the Year ensuing, shall be approved and determined, nine Ministers and five Ruling Elders at least, shall be a *Quorum* ; and the said Committee are appointed to have their Meetings at *Edinburgh*, in the Hall of the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Christian Knowledge, the last *Thursday* of every Month, at Four of the Clock Afternoon, and also the first lawful Day after the Adjournment of the four stated Diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, at Ten of the Clock Forenoon, except when it falls to be upon *Friday* or *Saturday*, and then the Meeting is to be upon *Monday* next thereafter, at the said Hour : With Power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such Times and Places as they shall find most needful and convenient ; and they are to keep a Correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and take their Advice and Assistance. And the General Assembly do by these Presents nominate and appoint the said Mr. *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the said Committee, and according to their Rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the Accompts of the Distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their Diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, that no Person once employed, and insert in the Scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that Year, but by the *Quorum* of at least nine Ministers and five Ruling Elders : And in case any Complaint shall be made against any of them on the Scheme, it shall not be determined at the first ordinary Meeting that the same is offered, but shall lye on the Table till another Meeting ; and, in the mean Time, the Person complained of, and the Presbytery of the Bounds wherein he officiates shall

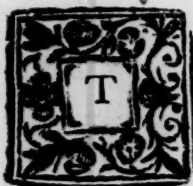
shall be acquainted of such Complaint, and these concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just Account of the Matter against their next Meeting. And it is further appointed, that, after the yearly Scheme of Missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled, in Manner above directed, and Notice thereof given by Letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their Answers to these Letters, at farthest, with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their Meeting in *May*, in case they do not complete the next Year's Scheme themselves, shall name a Sub-committee of their Number, for completing the same, who are to lay their Draught thereof before a subsequent Meeting.



VII.

*Act appointing the next Diet of the
General Assembly.*

Edinburgh June 2d 1755. Sess. ult.



THE next General Assembly of this National Church, is appointed to be held in this Place upon the third *Thursday* of *May* next, being the twentieth Day of that Month, in the Year One thousand seven hundred and fifty-six.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

GEORGE WISHART *Cls. Eccl. Scot.*



Edinburgh May 29th 1755.



UPON Report of the Committee for Overtures, the General Assembly transmits to the several Presbyteries, the Overtures formerly transmitted to them by the last and preceeding General Assemblies, and appoint that such Presbyteries as have given no Opinion on these Overtures, do send up their Opinions to the next General Assembly; and that such Presbyteries

as

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as have given their Opinions upon them formerly, do send up a new Extract of the same.

The Overtures above referred to, are :

- I. Overture anent Processes against Probationers, transmitted by the Assembly 1748.
- II. Overture anent licensing Probationers, transmitted by the Assembly 1749, with an Amendment proposed and transmitted by the Assembly 1750.
- III. Overture anent the Psalmody, transmitted by the Assembly 1750.
- IV. Overture anent the Effect of Dissents, transmitted by the Assembly 1752.
- V. Overture anent Presbyteries neglecting to send up their Opinions on the Overtures transmitted to them by the Assembly; — transmitted by the Assembly 1753.
- VI. Overture anent Ministers ordained in *England*, or in foreign Parts, transmitted by the Assembly 1754.
- VII. Overture anent Members of inferior Courts judging in Causes appealed from them to the superior Courts, transmitted by the Assembly 1754.

T A B L E of the printed Acts of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY, held in the Year 1755.

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I. <i>THE King's Commission to Charles Lord Cathcart, produced and ordered to be recorded</i>	3
II. <i>The King's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner</i>	5
III. <i>The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter</i>	6
IV. <i>Act against Infidelity and Immorality</i>	8
V. <i>Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for discussing Affairs referred to them</i>	9
VI. <i>Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End</i>	17
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Index or Abridgment

O F T H E

Actings and Proceedings of the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, held in the Year 1755, which are not printed at full Length.

A F T E R Sermon by the Reverend Mr. *Robert Hamilton*, Professor of Divinity in the College of *Edinburgh*, and Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders, Members of this Assembly, did convene in the Assembly House, and the Reverend Mr. *George Reid*, Minister at *St. Eviox*, being chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's Desire, took the Chair. *May 22d Sess. 1.*

The King's Commission to *Charles Lord Cathcart* to represent his Majesty's Royal Person in this Assembly, read and recorded. *Ibid.*

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly read and recorded. *Ibid.*

The Commissioner's Speech at opening this Assembly, and the Moderator's Speech in Return thereto. *Ibid.*

The Royal Warrant for 1000 *l.* granted this Year by his Majesty for Encouragement of itinerant Preachers and Catechists, for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*, read and recorded. *Ibid.*

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter. *Ibid.*

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring Absents from the Diets of Assembly, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, receiving in Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to be recorded, and of Students in Divinity at the several Universities, and report. *Ibid.*

Committee for Overtures named. *Ibid.*

Committee for Bills, References and Appeals, named. *Ibid.*

A Diet spent in Prayer. *May 23d Sess. 2.*

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner. *Ibid.*

The Act 7th of the Assembly 1718, for the better Dispatch of the

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the Business of Assembly, read, and the Observation thereof enjoined. *Ibid.*

The Draught of an Answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly brought in and approved, and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's Request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty. *May 24th Sess. 3.*

The Report of the Committee for revising Commissions brought in. The Commissions from the Burghs of *Linlithgow* and *Selkirk* rejected, and the Names of the Commissioners ordered to be scored out of the Roll. *Ibid.*

A Committee of Persons out of each Synod appointed to revise the Register of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly, audite the Procurator's and Agent's Accompts, consider the State of the Church's public Money, and prepare Overtures about the same, agreeable to the 7th Act of the Assembly 1712, and 8th Act of the Assembly 1719, and all Petitions and Claims for any Part of the said Money, ordered to be laid before the said Committee, and they appointed to prepare any Overtures or References made by the late Commission to this Assembly. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to revise the Register of the Committee named by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*. *Ibid.*

A Letter from the Presbytery of *Elgin*, craving that Mr. *Francis Hasbane*, itinerant Preacher in the Glen of *Pluscarden*, may be continued there, read and remitted to the Committee to be named for managing the Royal Bounty this Year. *Ibid.*

Committee named to revise the Synod Books of *Fife*, *Moray*, *Ross*, *Glenelg*, *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*. *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Argyle*, *Perth* and *Stirling*, *Angus* and *Mearns*, *Aberdeen*, *Sutherland* and *Caithness*, *Orkney*, *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, *Dumfries*, *Galloway*, *Glasgow* and *Air*, and Presbytery Book of *Zetland* absent, and resolved that the Reasons thereof be enquired into. *Ibid.*

The Committee for Overtures appointed to receive in from the several Members, any Instructions given to them by their respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the Matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereupon to the Assembly. *Ibid.*

A Reference from the Presbytery of *Penpont* for Advice how they are to behave with respect to a Slander raised against Mr. *Robert Grier* Minister at *Durisdale*, by one *Elizabeth Cairns* Indweller in *Kirkcudbright*, who alledges that Mr. *Grier* had been clandestinely and irregularly married to her, read, containing Mr. *Grier's* Application to the Presbytery to have the said slanderous Report enquired into, and considered

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dered by them, and his Denial of the Fact charged upon him, with the Proceedings had by the Presbytery thereanent, and her Declinature of their Jurisdiction, together with Letters from Mr. *Garthshore* Minister of *Kirkcudbright* to the Presbytery, bearing her being in Disorder both of Body and Mind; and that in his Opinion, she is not a proper Subject of Discipline: The said Presbytery of *Penpont* advised to draw up a Narrative of the whole Affair, to be read in the Parish Church of *Durisddeer*, and if they see Cause, in other Churches in the Presbytery; which Narrative shall bear, that the Presbytery find Reason upon the whole to look upon Mr. *Grier* as innocent, and upon the Report that has been spread to his Prejudice to be groundless, and that particular Notice be taken in the Narrative of the Circumstance contained in Mr. *Gartshore's* Letter of the said *Elizabeth Cairn's* being disordered. *May 26th Sess. 4.*

A Representation by the Synod of *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, craving Advice with respect to the frequency and bad Effects of irregular Marriages in their Bounds; remitted to the said Synod, that they may lay a full Representation and Queries before the Procurator for his Opinion thereon. *Ibid.*

A Sentence of the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, reversing a Judgment of the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, sustaining a Call by the Majority of the collective Body, in use to elect or present a Minister to the second Minister's Charge in *South-Leith*, to Mr. *Alexander Stewart* Probationer to supply the Vacancy in that Charge, reversed; the foresaid Judgment of the Presbytery of *Edinburgh* affirmed, and they appointed to proceed in the Trials and Settlement of the said Mr. *Alexander Stewart*, as second Minister of *South-Leith*. *May 27th, Sess. 5th.*

Act against Idleness and Immorality. *May 28th, Sess. 6.*

A Committee named to consider a Letter from the Presbytery of *Fordice*, anent the repairing a Meeting-house in the *Enzie*; and also to consider the State of the Fund collected for the building of that Meeting-house. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Procurator for the Church to make Application to the Commissioners for managing the forfeited and annexed Estates, for having the Grievances under which the Minister of *Kilmalie* labours, by Want of a legal Glebe, removed. *Ibid.*

An Overture from the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling* anent licensing Probationers dismissed, in respect there is an Overture on the same Subject already under Consideration of the several Presbyteries. *Ibid.*

Two Sentences of the Presbytery of *Kirkcudbright*, respecting the Settlement of the Parish of *Carsfairn*; the one finding, that the Right of settling the Parish was fallen into the

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Hands of the Presbytery; and the other granting a Moderation of a Call to Mr. *Donaldson* alone,---reversed; and the said Presbytery appointed to moderate in a Call to Mr. *William Boyd* Probationer alone to be Minister of the said Parish; and to proceed to his Settlement as Minister there, with all convenient Dispatch, according to the Rules of the Church. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Trustees of the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows, &c. brought in, and ordered to lye on the Table till another Diet. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission to cognosce and finally determine in any Reference or Appeal, that shall regularly be brought before them, relating to the Settlement of the Parish of *Carsfairn*. May 29th, *Sess.* 7.

The Report of the Visitors of the Commission Book brought in; and the following Affairs, depending before the last Commission and not determined by them, are referred to the Commission to be named by this Assembly, viz. An Overture anent the Execution of the Sentences of the supreme Court.---To consider what shall be the Effect of Informalities in Commissions to Members of Assembly.--- An Overture from the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, and Presbytery of *Dunkeld*, anent the Qualification of Elders Members of the Assembly.---An Overture anent reading the 9th Act of Assembly 1722, and the 7th Act of Assembly 1725, on the Day of Election of Members of Assembly, and before the Election.--- An Overture from the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, anent planting vacant Parishes.---To consider of proper Methods for having the Inconveniency arising from the Scarcity of Students having the *Irish* Language removed.---To call for the Report of a Committee named to draw Rules for regulating the Method of Procedure in Causes before the General Assembly.--- To Call for the Report of a Committee named to consider the Power of Kirk Sessions in managing the Poors Money.--- A Reference from the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, anent the Session of *Cambuslang*.---Appeals of *Michael Bell*, *David Johnston*, *John MacTaggart* and his Spouse, *John Ferrier*, *Francis Riddell*, *Quintin Dick*, and *David MacMurtrie*. *Ibid.*

A Letter from the Synod of *Argyle*, with one from the Synod of *Glenelg*, anent the Method of trainging up Students having the *Irish* Language, is referred to the Commission. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission to consider a Representation by the Presbytery of *Forfar*, concurred with by the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*, anent opposing any Process that may be raised for annexing the Parishes of *Inverarity* and *Kennetles*. *Ibid.*

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- Reference to the Commission to take in and settle the Accompts of the Procurator for the Church. *Ibid.*
- The Commission Book ordered to be attested, and the Commission thanked for their Faithfulness and Diligence in the Affairs committed to them. *Ibid.*
- The Accompt of the Agent for the Church, with an Accompt of Stationary Wares furnished for the Use of the Church, with the Report of the Committee on the public Accompts thereon, produced and ordered to lye on the Table till another Diet. *Ibid.*
- The Members from the several Synods appointed to meet among themselves, in order to bring in a List of the Nominators of the Commission, according to the 6th Act of Assembly 1705. *Ibid.*
- The several Presbyteries appointed to send up their Opinions to the next General Assembly, on the Overtures formerly transmitted to them; and such Presbyteries as have already sent up their Opinions on the said Overtures, are required to send up a new Extract of the same. *Ibid.*
- The Royal Warrant for 1000 *l.* ordered to be given to the Procurator, that he may receive Payment thereof. *Ibid.*
- A Committee named to consider a Representation from the Presbytery of *Dumfries*, anent a Sum mortified for the Maintenance of a Schoolmaster in the Parish of *Dunscore*. *Ibid.*
- A Call to Mr. *Thomas Simson*, who was presented by Mr. *Urquhart* of *Meldrum*, to be Minister of the Parish of *Gromarty* rejected, and the Presbytery of *Chanonry* appointed to proceed to the Moderation of a Call at large, to one to be Minister of that Parish, according to the Rules of this Church. *Ibid.*
- A Sentence of the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, finding *William Alexander* Tenant in *Mickle-Dripps*, and one of the Elders of the Parish of *Carmunock*, censurable, and ordering him to be rebuked at the Bar of the Synod, and the Sentence to be intimated from the Pulpit of *Carmunock*, reversed; the said *William Alexander* restored to the Exercise of his Office, as an Elder in the said Parish of *Carmunock*, the Session of that Parish appointed immediately to receive him back; and this Sentence of the Assembly appointed to be intimated from the Pulpit of the Church of *Carmunock* the first Lord's Day after it shall be put into the Minister's Hands. *Ibid.*
- A Committee named to consider a Cause relating to the Settlement of the Parish of *Paisly*, May 30th, *Sess.* 8th.
- A List of Members from the several Synods, brought in and appointed as a Committee, to name the Members of the Commission of this Assembly, and prepare Instructions to them. *Ibid.*

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The Report of the Committee named to consider the State of the Fund, collected for a Meeting-house in the *Enzie* brought in, and the Sum of 20 *l. Sterl.* of the Interest of that Fund ordered to be given to the Presbytery of *Fordice*, and by them applied for repairing a House given by her Grace the Dutchess of *Gordon* to the itinerant Preacher in the *Enzie*, and making the said House a comfortable Place for publick Worship. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission, to consider the Representation from the Presbytery of *Dumfries*, anent a Sum mortified for the Maintenance of a School-master in the Parish of *Dunscore*. *Ibid.*

A Letter from the Presbytery of *Lewis*, craving, that itinerant Preachers may be employed in their Bounds, referred to the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty this Year. *Ibid.*

Petition of Mr. *William Grant* Minister of *Kilmannivaig*, complaining of several Grievances he labours under for want of Kirk, Manse and Glebe, referred to the Commission. *Ibid.*

An Appeal by some Heretors and others of the Parish of *Nigg*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Moray*, approving of the Conduct of the Presbytery of *Abernetby*, and Correspondents, in finding a Libel exhibited by them against Mr. *Patrick Grant* Minister at *Duthil*, who is presented to be Minister of the said Parish of *Nigg*, accusing him of Drunkenness, not relevant as laid, and remitting the same to them, to be returned more formal, and duly circumstantiated, brought in; severals of the Members of the Assembly, and others who were offered as Witnesses for proving the said Libel, and who were with Mr. *Grant*, or heard him preach at the Time libeled, called upon, who declared what they knew of the Matter; the said Mr. *Grant* found fully exculpated of the Charge of Drunkenness brought against him, the Libel found vexatious and groundless, and dismissed; the Presbytery of *Tain* appointed to proceed to his Settlement as Minister at *Nigg*, and his Admission there to be betwixt and the first of *September* next; the Commission impowered to cognosce and finally determine in any Reference or Appeal that shall regularly be brought before them relative thereto; and this Sentence appointed to be intimated from the Pulpits, both of *Duthill* and of *Nigg*, on any Lord's Day before the first of *August*; and the Moderator of the Presbytery of *Tain* for the Time being appointed to preach at *Nigg*, and intimate the same. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to consider an Appeal by Mr. *Matthew Moncrief*, late Minister at *Bressa*, from a Sentence of the Presbytery of *Zetland*, deposing him from the Office of the Ministry. *Ibid.*

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A Representation by the Presbytery of *Aberbrothwick*, concerning some Heretors of the Parish of *St. Vigians*, who refuse to pay the Sum in which they were assessed, for repairing the Church of *St. Vigians*, because of a Paction entered into betwixt them, and some of the Friends of the present Incumbent, before his Settlement, whereby they obliged themselves to repair the Kirk, Manse and Office-houses of *St. Vigians*, in the Event of his being settled there, brought in; and the said Presbytery advised to go on in the due Course of Law for recovering from the several Heretors their Proportions of the Sum necessary for repairing the said Kirk. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee named Yesterday, to consider the Affair relating to the Settlement of the New Church in *Paisley* brought in, bearing as their Opinion, that the Magistrates and Council, shall by an Act of Council, authorise two or more of their Number in their Names, to grant Bond, binding them, the said Magistrates and Council, and their Successors in Office, as representing the Community of the Burgh, to pay to the Minister to be called and admitted, and to his Successors in Office in all Time coming, an yearly Stipend of 1000 Merks *Scots* Money, with 15*l.* *Sterling* Money in lieu of Manse and Glebe, at two Terms in the Year, *Whitsunday* and *Martinmas*, by equal Portions, beginning the first Term's Payment at the first Term of *Whitsunday* or *Martinmas* after his being legally admitted a Minister of the said Church: And also, to pay yearly during a Vacancy, the Tax appointed by Law to be paid for Support of the Fund for Ministers Widows, &c. That an Extract of the said Act of Council, with the principal Bond, be lodged with the Presbytery, to be by them put in the proper Register, and Extracts thereof given to the Minister called, on his Admission to the Church.—That the said Act of Council and Bond shall contain a Clause, providing that in case at any Time hereafter it shall become necessary and expedient, to discontinue or suppress the foresaid Church or Churches within the said Burgh, it shall not be in the Power of the Magistrates or Town Council to discontinue or suppress the same, otherwise than by the Authority of the Lords Commissioners for Plantation of Kirks, &c. and that after such Suppression of any one or more of such Churches, the Act of Council and Bond abovementioned, shall cease and become void, and the Community be no longer liable in consequence thereof, further than for Payment of one Year's Tax to the Widows Fund, after the Suppression.—That at the ensuing Moderation, the Magistrates and Town Council of the said Burgh, the Minister of the Church already planted, and the Elders of the

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Kirk-session of the said Church, not exceeding fifteen, together with the Contributors for the Building of the Church, who are entitled to elect in Terms of a Contract 'twixt them and the Town Council, shall be the only Voters and Electors in the ensuing Moderation.—That in future Vacancies, when the Town do not exerce their Right of Patronage, the Moderation shall be by such of the said Contributors as shall be in Life, and Inhabitants of the said Burgh for the Time, the Magistrates and Town Council, the Incumbents of the other Church or Churches for the Time, and by the Elders of the Sessions of the whole Churches; but so as that the Number of Elders entitled to vote, shall not exceed fifteen.--That the Magistrates and Town Council agreeing to the Settlement of a Minister in the said Burgh, either in the ensuing Moderation, or upon a Moderation on any future Vacancy, shall no ways hurt or prejudice their Right of Patronage.---That upon the Magistrates and Council making the foresaid Act, and upon the foresaid Bonds, being granted in the Terms abovementioned, and their agreeing to the said Plan in the Moderation, it be recommended to the Presbytery of *Paisley* to proceed to the said Moderation. The Members of the Presbytery present with the Committee having signified, that they have no Doubt but the Recommendation will be complied with: The said Report and Opinion approven, with the Addition, that the Bond therein mentioned be revised and approven of by the Procurator for the Church, and that of the whole of the Elders of the Kirk-sessions, only the fifteen Senior Elders shall vote in the Election of a Minister; and the Commission impowered to take in, cognosce and finally determine in any Reference or Appeal that shall be regularly brought before them, relating to the Settlement of the said Parish.

May 31st. Sess. 9th.

The Report of the Committee for naming the Members of the Commission, and drawing Instructions to them, brought in and approven. *Ibid.*

Report of the Visitors of the Register of the Committee named by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty, brought in, and the said Book ordered to be attested. *Ibid.*

The Draught of a Commission, and Instructions to the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty this Year, brought in and approven. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to revise the Synod Book of *Angus* and *Mearns*. *Ibid.*

The former Recommendations for the Collection for the Harbour of *Eymouth* renewed, and those deficient appointed to remit the Money to Messrs. *Couts* and *Company* Merchants

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- in *Edinburgh*, or to Mr. *James Stewart* Collector of the Fund for Ministers Widows, &c. *Ibid.*
- The Libel given by the Presbytery of *Dingwal*, to Mr. *Colin MacKenzie* Minister at *Fodderty*, dismissed, in respect it does not appear in the Precognition taken by the Presbytery, that there was any Evidence of the Facts charged upon him, the same containing nothing but Hearsays; and all the Minutes of Presbytery, relating to that Affair, ordered to be cancelled, and not entered in their Records; the said Sentence appointed to be intimated from the Pulpit of the Church of *Fodderty*. And it is recommended to the Presbytery of *Dingwal*, that in all Processes before them, they strictly adhere to the Rules laid down in the Form of Processes. *Ibid.*
- The Report of the Trustees for managing the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing a State of the Fund under their Management; and an Account of their Proceedings since last General Assembly reproduced, and ordered to be recorded in the separate Register kept for that Purpose. *Ibid.*
- Act approving of the Accompt of *James Edmonstone*, Agent for the Church, and Sub-clerk to the General Assembly, and appointing that he have Credit in his next Accompt for the Balance of 19 l. 5 s. 1 d. *Sterling*.
- Order for Payment of an Accompt of Stationary Wares furnished for the Use of the Church, amounting to 2 l. 18 s. 8 d. *Sterling*.
- The Report of the Committee named to consider the Affair of Mr. *Matthew Moncrieff* late Minister at *Bressay*, brought in; and in respect the Sentence of Deposition was past by the Presbytery of *Zetland* against him, when necessarily absent; and in respect of the Answers made by him to the several Articles of Charge, the said Sentence declared void and null, and he restored to the Office of the Ministry against the said Sentence, as if the same had never been past; and Intimation hereof appointed to be made from the Pulpits of *Bressay* and *Burray*. *June 2d, Sess. ult.*
- A Letter from the said Mr. *Matthew Moncrieff* containing a Demission of his Charge in the Parishes of *Bressay* and *Burray*, given in and accepted of as his Demission, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of the Presbytery of *Zetland*. *Ibid.*
- A Paper entitled, "History of the Charitable Scheme for instructing poor *Germans* in *Pensylvania*," published by Order of the Gentlemen appointed Trustees for Management of the said Charitable Scheme, and bearing on the Title Page its being presented by Order of the Trustees to this Assembly, produced

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- produced and ordered to lye on the Table for the Perusal of such Members as please to inspect the same. *Ibid.*
- Recommendation to Ministers and others liable in Payment, to be punctual in Payment of the Arrears due to the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows, &c. *Ibid.*
- An Appeal of *Daniel Duff* in *Torrerie*, in Parish of *Kirkbean*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Dumfries*, affirming a Judgment of the Presbytery of *Dumfries*, appointing a Narrative of a Process of Scandal raised against him before the said Presbytery, to be read from the Pulpit of *Kirkbean*, is referred to the Commission. *Ibid.*
- Reference to the Commission to cognosce, and finally determine in an Appeal of *John Marshal* Baillie in *Auchtermuchty*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Fife*, appointing him to be rebuked before the Congregation, upon an alledged Prevarication, and a Narrative of the Process to be read from the Pulpit of *Auchtermuchty*. *Ibid.*
- A Petition for the Parishioners of *Hawick* and *Cavers*, craving some Allowance to a Schoolmaster to be employed in the remote Parts of their Parishes, recommended to the Society for propogating Christian Knowledge, that they may please grant some proper Allowance for employing a Schoolmaster in the Highland Parts of the said parishes. *Ibid.*
- Recommendation to those deficient in making the Collection appointed by last Assembly for the College of *New Jersey*, still to make it, and transmit the Money to Messrs. *William Hog* and Son, and the several Presbyteries appointed to call for the Ministers in their Bounds to produce before them Receipts for the above Collection, as also for the Collections appointed by former Assemblies for *Eymouth* and *Pensylvania*, and to report to the next General Assembly such as are deficient in making the said Collections. *Ibid.*
- The Synod Books of *Fife*, *Angus* and *Mearns*, *Moray*, *Glenelg*, and *Lothian*, and *Tweedale*, attested. *ibid.*
- Reference to the Commission, to call the Visitors of the Synod Book of *Ross* to account for their Absence at this Diet, and upon their Report, if they see Cause, to order the Book to be attested. *Ibid.*
- The Synod Books of *Argyle*, *Perth*, and *Sterling*, *Aberdeen*, *Sutherland* and *Caithness*, *Orkney*, *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, *Dumfries*, *Galloway*, *Glasgow* and *Air*, and Presbytery Book of *Zetland*, absent, and ordered to be brought up to be revised by the next Assembly. *Ibid.*
- Protestation admitted at the Instance of the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, against an Elder in the Parish of *Port*, for not insisting in an Appeal taken by him from a Sentence of the said Synod. *Ibid.*

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List of Probationers in the Bounds of thirty-two Presbyteries, amounting to ninety-two, produced, and ordered to be recorded. *Ibid.*

The Minutes of this Sederunt were read, those of former Sederunts having been read at the Diets subsequent to each Sederunt. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to revise the Minutes of this Assembly's Proceedings, at this and all the other Diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of this Assembly as are to be standing Rules, or are of publick Use, in order to their being printed. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Speech to the Assembly, and to his Majesty's Commissioner. *Ibid.*

The Lord Commissioner's Speech in Return thereto; and then the Assembly concluded. *Ibid.*

F I N I S.

